

ExceleRate Subcommittee, Minutes of February 2020 meeting

Thursday, February 20, 2020, 10:30 – 12:30

National-Louis University's Chicago campus, 122 S. Michigan Ave., and by conference phone

Present

Amanda Heinz, Ann Kremer, Ashley Nazarak, Beata Skorusa, Beth Knight, Cindy Berrey, Cindy Wall, Dan Harris, Debra Clark, Denise Monnier, Donna Emmons, Emily Ropars, Felicia Crawford, Jenny Metcalf, Marie Masterson, Mary Ottinot, Melissa Casteel, Michell Vilchez, Teresa Ramos, Teri Talan, Tola Alao, Tom Layman, Toni Porter

1. **Welcome and introductions**

2. **Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting, January 2020, were approved unanimously.

3. **Second draft of revised CQI standards**

a. Conceptual framework

Tom Layman reviewed the conceptual framework of the standards, including:

- Baseline assessments to inform CQI – no cut scores
- Vertical progression of domains to parallel “*CQI – What Does a Program Leader Do?*” document and Whole Leadership Framework
- Horizontal alignment of Supports and Tools with standards in each domain

The Subcommittee approved this framework.

b. Domain 1: Culture of Improvement

The Subcommittee discussed the Executive Leadership section at length. The group concluded that while executive leadership is critically important, breaking out the Leadership Essentials requirements for the executive leader involved too many problems of definition and measurement, and that the best solution would be to wrap those requirements into the Program Leadership section. Given this change, the more specific requirements around inclusion of children with disabilities and supporting linguistic and cultural diversity could be more strongly stated in the Bronze columns of Domain 3, Teaching and Learning, and Domain 4, Family and Community Engagement.

c. Domain 2: Administration

The draft for this Domain includes a PAS self-assessment at Bronze under 2A, Team Reflection & Continuous Improvement. In addition, Tom had extracted a few items from the PAS and from the book *Inspiring Peak Performance* to include under 2B, Administrative Policies & Practices. The items listed under 2B are those that support CQI and professional learning. The Subcommittee supported this approach and suggested that we look a little more broadly at administration to see if anything else should be added to 2B. Also, participants suggested potential resources to support team reflection meetings, including practicum students and a shared services pool of substitutes.

d. Domain 3: Teaching & Learning

The Subcommittee discussed moving some of the requirements for serving children with disabilities and for linguistically and culturally appropriate practice from higher Circles to Bronze. Also, Tom pointed out that trainings on these subjects are already required at Bronze and would continue.

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e. Domain 4: Family & Community Engagement

Participants suggested that some requirements shown in the Silver and Gold columns should be moved to Bronze. Also some wording was clarified. Overall, there was a sense that this section could be more robust.

Specific changes to reflect the above discussions are included on the attached draft dated 2/21/20. The co-chairs and GOECD are working on additional changes to strengthen Domain 4, and to further the subcommittee's goals to allow choice for programs (hybrid model) and to reduce the overall number of standards.

4. Post-meeting work: next steps

Toni Porter said that GOECD will be finalizing the pilot standards in the next month. She invited people to email Tom at Tom.Layman@illinois.gov with additional comments, or call Tom at 312-438-7363. Also feel free to reach out to either of the co-chairs, Toni Porter and Teri Talan. Toni noted that these standards are only for use in the PDG B5 pilot, which will provide us with experience and feedback before we make changes on a broader statewide level.

Next meeting

Thursday, March 19, 10:30 – 12:30